

# Best of Guatemala: Birds & Culture Species List | March 5 – 17, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide James Petersen with Roland. Our clients included Paul, Ann, Robert, Kathy, Roger, Donna, Sandra, Marion and Carl**

We started this trip birding the campus of Marroquin University, finding small mixed flocks of wintering wood warblers that breed in the United States and some of the common resident birds of Guatemala which included large numbers of Clay-colored Thrushes, Spot-breasted Orioles and Gray Silky Flycatchers along with a few species of tanagers. Over the course of the next few days, we slowly worked our way up and over to Los Tarrales and from Los Tarrales to Antigua. During these days we witnessed a stunning variety of birds and mammals from King Vulture, Resplendent Quetzal and Pink-headed Warbler to Ring-tail Cat, Deppe's Squirrels and Central American Agouti. We also were able to witness the culture side of Guatemala with a visit to the Chichicastenango market and seeing a Mayan shaman make a case on behalf of a person to the Mayan judge Maximon. This led to a fantastic tour where we ended with 211 species seen, 5 mammal species, 2 reptiles and 3 species of butterfly observed.

The extension was just as birdy, seeing over 100 new species for the trip; from Double-toothed Kites to witnessing two ant swarms that attracted such special species such as Ruddy and Tawny-winged Woodcreepers along with Gray-headed Tanagers. We can't forget about seeing the Orange-breasted Falcon perched on temple four. That combined with the scenic Mayan temples and roaring sound of the Black Howler Monkeys made for an unforgettable extension.

The eBird link below details the 319 species of birds our group observed during the tour and extension. Of those 321, 38 were heard only.

If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Best of Guatemala: Birds and Culture | March 5-17, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

The following is a list of other animals seen on this trip.

## **MAMMALS: (8)**

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata* — These medium sized brown mammals were seen often the first few days of the trip. The best views came while staying in Los Tarrales, where they would climb up the railings to eat bananas.

**Deppe's Squirrel** *Sciurus deppei* — A common Squirrel throughout the trip, seen in most forested areas.

**Yucatan Squirrel** *Sciurus yucatanensis* — Only seen during the extension while at Tikal.

**Yucatan Black Howler Monkey** *Alouatta pigra* — Another mammal only seen and heard while on the extension at Tikal.

Heard everyday roaring throughout the day while exploring Tikal.

**Central American Spider Monkey** *Ateles geoffroyi* — Only seen on the extension. All had amazing looks on day 2 of one swinging its way through the canopy of the trees.

**White-nosed Coati** *Nasua narica* — Another mammal that was mainly seen on the extension—fantastic views of a few groups of these mammals while at Tikal. We also saw one during the main tour during our stay at Los Tarrales.

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* — Only seen once but had amazing views of this gray colored fox at El Remate.

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* — Common deer seen while at Tarrales.

**Cacomistle** *Bassariscus astutus*— Also known as Ring-tailed Cat. We were shown a sleeping one at the top of the road to Vesueio.

### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: (5)**

**Morelet's Crocodile** *Crocodylus moreletii* — Only seen on the last day of the extension. A very camouflaged one laying in the water at Tikal, and then one that came right to the edge of the water while at the Villa Maya.

**Asian House Gecko (I)** *Hemidactylus frenatus* — Seen by a client in their room at Tarrales.

**Brown Basilisk** *Basiliscus vittatus* — Seen on the last day of the extension.

**Giant Toad** *Rhinella horribilis* — Only seen once, at Bambu while walking down for the checklist.

**Yellow Tree Frog** *Dendropsophus microcephalus* — Was heard only while by the visitor center at Tikal.

### **BUTTERFLIES: (3)**

**Mexican Silverspot** *Dione moneta* — A fantastic view of this butterfly that was sunning itself while we were birding at Caleras

**American Lady** *Vanessa cardui* — A brief view of this butterfly while birding at Caleras.

**Banded Mapwing** *Hypanartia dione* —A great view of this butterfly on a wet area while birding at Finca el Pilar.

### **LOCATIONS AND NOTES:**

**Day 1:** Marroquin University-Cabana Suiza- Los Tarrales

**Day 2:** La Isla- Road to San Pedro

**Day 3:** Road to Vesueio – Lagoon trail

**Day 4:** Imap – San Juan La Laguna

**Day 5:** Lake Aitlan-Chicchicastengago

**Day 6:** Mirador rey tepepul-Maximon

**Day 7:** Caleras Chichavac

**Day 8:** Finca el Pilar-Jocotenando

**Day 9:** Cerro de la Cruz-Tenedor del Cerro

**Day 10:** Road to Yaxha/El Remate-Lake Itza Peten

**Day 11:** Tikal (Temple 4, Lost World, Great Plaza)-Old Runway

**Day 12:** Tikal (Complex Q)-Visitor Center

**Day 13:** Road to Uaxactun-Tikal Visitor Center-El Remate-Villa Maya